

Flambeau River Papers 2018 Sustainability Report

Flambeau River Papers continues to be guided by policies that ensure continuous improvement and that resources are used wisely. Aggressive goals continue to be set to assure minimal environmental impacts. A summary of the mill's environmental status as well as the other sustainable initiatives the mill is working on follows.

Production Changes in 2018

A week into 2018 the mill's largest paper machine was taken off-line due to poor market conditions for the type of paper manufactured on that machine. Since this was the largest user of the mill's generated pulp, pulp mill production was also reduced. Fortunately, the mill was able to start-up a wet lap machine in October 2018 that has allowed the pulp mill to return to full production.

Residuals

In 2018 all of the mill's residuals from the wastewater treatment plant were available to farmers supplying the nitrogen and other nutrients their fields need. The one-time-use turn-up tape used to start a roll of paper is still available to make baskets or other crafts. Please call (715) 762-5375 or stop by the mill's security entrance to inquire about receiving some of the material.

Water

2018 saw the lowest water use to date which brings the mill a step closer to being exempt from the Federal cooling water intake rule. Additional optimizing will be completed in 2019 with the goal of keeping the water reductions in place under the new production strategy the mill is operating under.

Air

The annually required boiler stack test for Boiler MACT showed compliance with all operating requirements.

Environmental Management System

Although the mill has decided to no longer keep ISO 14001 certification, the environmental management system did not change. 100% compliance continues to be the mill's main objective for 2019 with water use being the main focus for the year.

Greenhouse and other Community Involvement

Donations to the city's food pantry in 2018 from the Flambeau River Community Growing Center, the greenhouse that is located on mill property, were as follows:

tomatoes 202 pounds
peppers – 38 pounds
onions/garlic – 38 pounds
beans – 7 pounds
kale – 20 pounds
egg plant – 10 pounds
cucumbers – 3 pounds
herbs – 0.7 pounds

In addition to providing raised beds for use by the community, the site hosted a variety of seminars in 2018 including growing grapes, seed saving, and herbs. 4-H members also came there to paint flower pots and then returned later to plant flowers or herbs in them. It was also a drop off location for a bike roundup on September 22 where used bikes were collected. After being refurbished by mechanics, the bikes were sent to countries where they were needed. Plans for 2019 include vertical/container gardening, hydroponics, involving kids in the garden, donating more produce to the food pantry and to Peace Lutheran Church towards the monthly free meal they host. The mill also continues to have representation on the local chamber and charter school boards.

Flambeau River Papers managed the challenges of 2018. The mill's commitment to being a responsible environmental and energy steward hasn't changed. If you have questions or concerns about our environmental performance please contact us during office hours at (715)762-5375 or by calling our 24-hour community concerns hotline at (715)762-5239. Please visit **flambeauriverpapers.com** to see the mill's environmental policy and for more information about the mill.